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**State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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Immediate Release

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Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe to Address Connecticut Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons

Hartford – Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D., President of the Center for Women Policy Studies, will be the featured speaker at the November 18, 2004 meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons. **The Task Force will meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2A of the Legislative Office Building. The Legislative Office Building is located at 300 Capitol Avenue in Hartford.**

Dr. Wolfe has been instrumental in making the trafficking of women and children an issue of vital importance for federal and state policy makers. In 2003, she addressed members of the Connecticut General Assembly regarding to this issue and was an invaluable resource to those in Connecticut working to address human trafficking within the state.

(more)

Trafficking of persons, which is defined as the buying, transporting, and selling of human beings for forced labor or sex, has gained the attention of the U.S. government within recent years, thanks to the work of people like Dr. Wolfe. The U.S. government estimates that between 18,000 and 20,000 people were trafficked in the U.S. in 2003. Of the 600,000 to 800,000 persons trafficking across the world in 2003, 80% of the victims were women and 70% of those women were forced into sexual slavery.

With the leadership of Senator-Elect Andrea Stillman (D-20), The Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons was established by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2004 by Special Act 04-8. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has a seat on the task force, and will also provide research and support. The task force includes elected officials, law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and providers of services to victims, all working to ensure that Connecticut can identify and assist trafficking victims within its borders.

For additional information on the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, **please contact the PCSW at 860.240.8300 or email (pcsw@cga.ct.gov).**

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was established by the CT State Legislature in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental position and works with state agencies to assess programs and practices as they affect women.

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